

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

HA-05 PA-02 L-03 ICA-20 EB-08 SP-02 /083 W

-----014797 310252Z /63

R 301735Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6634

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS LONDON 08513

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PEPR, SHUM, UR, US, UK

SUBJECT: KIRILLIN-DELL PRESS CONFERENCE CLASH

REF: STATE 135957

1. INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL OCCURED DURING MAY 25
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
TRADE EDMUND DELL AND SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
VLADIMIR KIRILLIN FOLLOWING THE SIGNATURE OF AN
ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL AND RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE
PRESS COVERAGE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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2. WHEN KIRILLIN WAS ASKED WHETHER HE FELT THAT THE
ORLOV TRIAL WOULD AFFECT TRADE LINKS, HE REPLIED "THERE
IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF." WHEN THE NEXT QUESTION
ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION OF ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKY,
KIRILLIN LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE
SOVIET LEGAL SYSTEM AND SAID THAT A PROPORTION OF THE
BRITISH POPULATION DID NOT POSSESS A CORRECT UNDER-

STANDING OF RECENT EVENTS IN THE USSR. ACCUSING ORLOV OF SPREADING "SLANDEROUS INFORMATION" ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION, KIRILLIN SAID THERE WAS A PARALLEL WITH ANOTHER SOVIET LAW WHICH PROHIBITED THE PROPAGATION OF WAR. HE SAID, "IF SOMEONE IN THE SOVIET UNION TRIED TO PROPAGATE WAR AS SOME OFFICIALS ARE DOING IN BRITAIN, THEY WOULD STAND TRIAL."

3. VISIBLY ANGERED, DELL BROKE IN TO SAY "THIS IS NOT THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN. I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE OUR UNDERSTANDING IS AT A SATISFACTORY LEVEL. NOR DO I ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE BRITISH OFFICIALS WHO ARE PROPAGATING WAR." DELL WENT ON TO SAY THAT BRITAIN TRADES WITH MANY COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS, NOTING, "IF ANYONE HERE BELIEVES THAT TO CUT OFF TRADE WOULD ASSIST HUMAN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA THEY'RE DECEIVING THEMSELVES."

4. KIRILLIN THEN RETORTED, "YOU ARE WRONG IF YOU THINK THAT MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION LIKE THE SOCIAL SYSTEM IN BRITAIN. BUT ALTHOUGH WE DON'T LIKE IT WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO COOPERATE FOR WORLD PEACE.

5. WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT KIRILLIN LEFT LONDON "LIVID WITH RAGE," BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE WAS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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AMUSED BY THE CONTINUAL HARASSMENT BY PRO-REFUSENIK ACTIVISTS TO WHICH HE AND HIS DELEGATION WERE SUBJECTED AND THE FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH KIRILLIN PROBABLY TOOK TO BE A CAREFULLY PLANNED SLAP.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978058/aaaaagjh.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, PEPR, SHUM, UR, US, UK, (KIRILLIN, VLADIMIR), (DELL, EDMUND),
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